

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 276234

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SMITHSONIAN- KSCHMERTZ

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: 4/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE :ITEM 16 -
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PRESERVATION AND ADEQUATE
HOUSING OF CULTURAL OBJECTS BY BUILDING MUSEUMS IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: NAIROBI 12114

1. USDEL MAY SUPPORT AFGHAN INITIATIVE THIS IMPORTANT
FIELD PROVIDED FOLLOWING REVISIONS ACCEPTED.

2. DR SHOULD BE AMENDED TO CALL FOR CONVENING OF EXPERT
GROUP UNDER AUSPICES OF MOST APPROPRIATE NGO, I.E.
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM). EXPERT GROUP
SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION RESOLUTION
AG 7/11-3/2 ADOPTED AT SEVENTH SESSION OF GGENERAL ASSEMBLY
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PAGE 02 STATE 276234

OF ROME CENTER IN-1973 DEALING WITH ARCHEOLOGICAL

EXCAVATIONS.

3. LANGUAGE IN OPERATIVE PARAS ONE AND TWO ("HOUSING OF CULTURAL OBJECTS" AND "AN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT TO PROVIDE SUCH HOUSING") SHOULD BE REVISED TO EXCLUDE POSSIBLE IMPLICATION THAT A FOREIGN EXCAVATOR IS OBLIGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO BRICKS-AND-MORTAR MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION FOR THIS PURPOSE. NORMALLY, THIS IS RESPONSIBILITY OF HOST COUNTRY. HOWEVER, REVISIONS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS VITIATING OBLIGATION OF EXCAVATOR TO PRESERVE, STABILIZE, AND PROTECT WHAT HE UNCOVERS.

4. FYI: SMITHSONIAN WISHES AVOID LANGUAGE OBLIGATING EXCAVATORS TO CONTRIBUTE TO LARGE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES LIKE THOSE INVOLVED IN MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION OR RESTORATION OF MONUMENTS BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF MOST U. S. INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTING ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS TO RAISE SUCH FUNDS. SUCH LANGUAGE WOULD EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDE U. S. EXCAVATORS FROM MUCH FIELD WORK ABROAD. END FYI. KISSINGER

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